

Dear Colleagues,

I'm pleased to present to you the second issue of the Rwanda Public Health Bulletin (RPHB). This issue comes when Rwanda and the world in particular is still fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the spread of COVID-19 is on a continuous rise globally, Rwanda continues the fight against the pandemic, and the COVID-19 taskforce in Rwanda, has made tremendous progresses. In May 2020, Rwanda eased some movement restrictions and opened businesses in efforts to boost the national economy. However, some prevention measures and cautions were maintained.

In the efforts to contain the pandemic, Rwanda, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), deployed five high tech robots to assist frontline workers in the fight against COVID-19.

This innovative technological approach assists healthcare professionals in COVID-19 case management by recording individual's vital signs including temperature and other clinical symptoms and automatically creates patient's clinical record.

With no cure or vaccine available yet, it is important for public health professionals and healthcare workers to be constantly informed on the current progress and latest updates on scientifically approved treatment options and prevention measures.

This issue highlights Rwanda's efforts and global progress in the fight against COVID-19. The content covers the use of robotics and their applications in the fight against COVID-19 in Rwanda, the global trend of COVID-19 treatment, the COVID-19 Rwanda response updates, the new massive testing using pooled testing, the lessons learned from the fight against the pandemic and easing lockdown restrictions during COVID-19. As you read this issue, I would like to note that each of us is called to play a role in responding to this outbreak.

I wish you a pleasant reading.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Mutesa'.

Prof. Leon Mutesa, MD, PhD
Editor-in-Chief